

Robert J. Lovero

BERWYN POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Serving with Pride"



June 9, 2020

In response to recent events and actions of law enforcement professionals and agencies across the United States, the Berwyn Police Department is taking a proactive stance with restoring confidence with the public. We will be working with vested community partners to provide reforms in critical areas that will ensure procedural justice is practiced and accounted for with our citizens and the general public in the City of Berwyn.

The Berwyn Police Department aligns its policies and procedures with the tenets associated with #8CANTWAIT. We are proud to say that our policies associated with this initiative have been in place since 2018. We agree that enforcement of our policies have had a positive effect on reducing police violence. Having policies in place is only the first part of reform, we are now actively working to create a conversation on how we can be more transparent and accountable for the actions or inactions that we take. Creating a healthy oversight mechanism between the police and the public is a goal that we not only want to achieve, but more importantly sustain for our future generations.

The Berwyn Police Department is fortunate that it has had no in custody police deaths or unjustified critical shooting incidents involving the public over the past 20 years. Our yearly training in de-escalation coupled with a defined use of force continuum allows our officers to use an appropriate amount of force from a toolbox of options, especially in rapidly evolving and dynamically changing situations. We have also taken steps to address traditionally criticized gaps in police training by ensuring our departmental training standards over the past 5 years have included diversity training, implicit biased training and crisis intervention based training when dealing with mental, psychological or substance-based related calls for service.

Although we may have checked the boxes with #8CANTWAIT we are cognizant that certain policies and practices we have instituted into our culture can be worked upon to ensure better safeguards for our community and first responders. We look forward to working with the Berwyn Diversity Commission as our primary partner with the goal of intentionally enhancing the professionalism of our employees. We strive to continually move the needle in the direction it needs to go and continue to build trust with those we have a duty to serve.

Michael D. Cimaglia Berwyn Chief of Police